

## **Male Sex Workers**

### **Background:**

Since 1995 male sex workers (MSW) are a special target group for the Public Health Service of Amsterdam (GGD Amsterdam). One of the reasons they are a target group is because of the high STI prevalence. The STI prevalence varies between 20% and 25%.

Beside the high STI prevalence, research indicates that MSW show high risk sexual behavior due to hard-drug use during work.

The double stigma they often experience, homosexuality and sex work, and because MSW often don't identify themselves with prostitution, are factors that contribute to high risk sexual behavior. Alongside MSW are a hard to reach group due to their high mobility.

Hence MSW in Amsterdam are hard to reach for STI/HIV testing and counselling. And makes them more vulnerable for STI/HIV transmission.

In 2008 the prostitution and health centre 292 (P&G292) opened. The P&G292 is a centre for sex workers where sex workers get information on rights and duties and at the same time help for mental and social matters.

### **Methods**

Since 2008 the P&G292 developed different methods for approaching MSW; online outreach through commercial dating websites, banner advertising on commercial dating websites for male escorts, outreach field work and the monthly focus group for MSW.

Since 2014 a special website is online for male escorts; [www.info4escorts.nl](http://www.info4escorts.nl).

### **Results:**

In 2015, 213 MSW were tested at the P&G292

From which 32 consultations were conducted during outreach activities.

The STI prevalence in 2015 was 20,7%.

### **Discussion:**

MSW are a high risk group concerning STIs. A specific method is required to approach this group. The possibility of direct referral to the PSW (prostitution social workers) prevents of no shows.